Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Discovery lands on time in unusual night landing



Space Shuttle Columbia waits on launch pad for next mission, STS-93

▲ Smooth Landing! Dropping through scattered clouds, the Space Shuttle orbiter Discovery touched down on KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility Runway 15 to complete the 9-day, 19-hour STS-96 mission. Main gear touchdown was at 2:02:43 a.m. EDT June 6, landing on orbit 154 of the mission. Nose gear touchdown was at 2:02:59 a.m., and the wheels stopped at 2:03:39 a.m. Commander Kent Rominger and Pilot Rick Husband were at the controls. The successful mission to resupply the International Space Station included a space walk by Mission Specialists Dan Barry and Tamara Jernigan to attach two cranes to the outside of the station for future construction. The night landing was the 11th at KSC.



▲ Space Shuttle Update: The orbiter Columbia, to be flown on mission STS-93, moved to the Vehicle Assembly Building last week where it was mated to the external tank and solid rocket boosters. The Shuttle rolled out to Launch Pad 39B on Monday, June 7, and now sits waiting for the payload transfer of the Chandra X-ray Observatory. The targeted launch date of July 22 is currently under review.

Super Safety & Health Day

June 17 is reserved at KSC to focus on safety and health issues. Events kick off with a keynote address and panel session 8 to 10:30 a.m. in the Training Auditorium (also broadcast over local NASA TV). Vendor displays, presentations, lunch and information sharing follow throughout the day. Check with your supervisor for your schedule of activities.

- ♦ Biology Seminars for KSC employees will be held June 23 and 24 in two half-day multi-media presentations in the Training Auditorium. Employees are invited to attend either the 8:30 a.m. to noon session or 1 to 4:30 p.m. session. Part one is scheduled on June 23 and Part 2 on June 24. In future events, Dr. Don DeVincenzi from Ames Research Center will speak on "Life in the Universe" on June 30 from 9 to 11 a.m.; Dr. Victor Convertino will speak on "the Biomedical Aspects of Space Flight" on July 8 from 11 a.m. to noon.
- ◆ Did You Know? Portable cordless phones will not work when you lose electricity in your home. Hurricane season started June 1 and the storms often result in the loss of electrical power. To avoid loss of communication, do not go totally cordless in your home -- save at least one of the "old style" phones for emergencies.

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